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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/776,459 | 02/10/2004 | Todd Vernon | 45098.00012.UTL1 | 3493 |
| 67670 | 7590 | 09/04/2007 | | |
| West Corporation Michele Zarinelli 11808 Miracle Hills Drive MSW11-Legal Omaha, NE 68154 | | | EXAMINER GUPTA, MUKTESH G | |
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|--|---------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/776,459 | | VERNON ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | | Art Unit | |
| | Muktesh G. Gupta | | 2100 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-5 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 August 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>See Continuation Sheet</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Continuation of Attachment(s) 3). Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08), Paper No(s)/Mail Date :02/10/2005,
01/09/2007

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-30 have been examined and pending.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. An initialed and dated copy of the information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 05/02/2005 and 01/09/2007 is attached to this office action.

Claim Objections

Claim numbers are not in sequence and are assigned same numbers and they are objected to because of the following informalities:

3. Two claims are assigned the same number 14.
4. Claim number 23 is missing.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claim 2, 3-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 2, 3-5 recites the limitation "Multimedia Communication Session" in claims.

There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. **Claims 1-30** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6437818 to Ludwig et al. (hereinafter "Ludwig").

As to Claim 1, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system (as stated in col. 5, line 63-64) for facilitating a multimedia collaboration session (as stated in Col. 18, lines 38-41 and lines 63-65) between a plurality of participants, comprising a plurality of client devices associated with each of the plurality of participants, (as stated in col. 5, line 61-67 and col. 6, lines 1-6, plurality of collaborative multimedia workstations with multimedia devices connects to multimedia local area networks and wide area networks to provide audio/video/data networking for supporting collaboration among collaborative multimedia workstation users) each of the plurality of client devices configured to store endpoint address information associated with the associated participant, the multimedia collaboration system configured to automatically obtain the endpoint address information from each of the client devices" (as stated in col. Col. 5, lines 5-7 a diagrammatic representation of two-party call depicts process

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of obtaining endpoint address by the system and col. 19, lines 28-46 , show how Collaboration Initiator Module retrieves necessary addressing information from Directory Service for the participants).

As to Claim 2, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 1, wherein the multimedia collaboration session comprises a plurality of media components, wherein the endpoint address information is used to add a new media component to the multimedia collaboration session (as stated in lines col. 6, lines 7-18, various other multimedia resources such as VCR, TV feeds are connected to multimedia LANs and there by accessible to individual collaborative multimedia workstations).

As to Claim 3, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 1, wherein the endpoint address information for each participant comprises endpoint address information for a plurality of endpoints (as stated in col. 8, lines 63-67, col. 9, lines 1-14, for connecting to all the desired participants multimedia LAN server controls to set up the required audio/video/data paths to conferees which in turn is endpoint address for participants as well as the associated devices in network paths).

As to Claim 4, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 3, wherein priority can be assigned to the plurality of endpoints for each participant (as stated in col. 37, lines 55-65, priority can be assigned to multiple collaborative services associated with participants).

As to Claim 5, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 3, wherein a hierarchy can be assigned to the plurality of endpoints for each participant (as stated in col. 10, lines 66-67 and col. 11, lines 1-5, in case of several multiple hop routes available, the routing system handles the network hierarchy at the connection endpoints).

As to Claim 6, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 2, wherein the new media component is an audio conferencing component, (as stated in col. 16, lines 30-38, a handset/headset jack enables the use of an integrated audio I/O device).

As to Claim 7, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 6, wherein the addition of the audio conferencing component includes the addition of telephonic conferencing via a telephonic network (as stated in col. 19, lines 47-67 and col. 20, line 1, Audio/Video Network Manager provides connection through a/v switches between telephone and collaborative multimedia workstation's audio I/O device).

As to Claim 8, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 7, wherein the multimedia collaboration session occurs over a network that is separate from the telephonic network (as stated in col. 7, lines 26-34, multimedia audio network is separate from the multimedia data network)

As to Claim 9, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 7, wherein the multimedia collaboration session occurs over one network and the added media component is associated with a second network (as stated in col. 7,

lines 26-34, multimedia audio network is separate from the multimedia data network).

As to Claim 10, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 9, wherein the two networks use separate access devices (as stated in col. 7, lines 62-67 and col. 8, lines 1-6, multimedia audio network access devices are separate from the multimedia data network access devices).

As to Claim 11, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 9, wherein the two networks use different addressing schemes (as stated in col. 7, lines 62-67 and col. 8, lines 1-22, data network uses different addressing schemes, the TCP/IP protocol suite for communicating with the server).

As to Claim 12, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 2, wherein multimedia collaboration system is further configured to facilitate the addition of a new media component to the collaboration session by automatically storing the endpoint address information for each of the plurality of participants as each participant joins the multimedia collaboration session (as stated in col. 21, lines 6-18, 65-67, col. 22, lines 1-25, when participants are joining the collaborative services, audio/video network manager module registers, stores and replicates to other service servers the network resources of participants and the end point addresses).

As to Claims 13-14(first), Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 2, wherein the multimedia collaboration system is further configured to facilitate the addition of a new media component to the multimedia collaboration

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session upon receipt of a query from a existing and new participant (as stated in Col. 24, line 48-60, col. 25, line 26-43 and col. 26, lines 13-22 new users are added along with there associated network/media devices as they are invited and when they want to join as an new participant to the collaborative session).

As to Claim 14(second), Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 1, wherein the endpoint address information comprises an internet protocol address for a client device (as stated in col. 8, lines 12-22, collaborative multimedia workstation endpoint address is TCP/IP network protocol suite).

As to Claim 15, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 1, wherein the endpoint address information comprises a uniform resource locator for a website (as stated in col. 8, lines 38-62 and col. 28, lines 14-28, for accessing multimedia documents hyperlinks provide endpoint address to those documents).

As to Claim 16, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 1, wherein the endpoints address information comprises a telephone number (as stated in col. 16, lines 30-38 and col. 19, lines 47-67, as part of computer integrated telephony, collaborative multimedia workstations have telephone with number which is an endpoint address for the telephone).

As to Claim 17, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 1, wherein the endpoint addresses information includes a list of addresses for the associated participant (as stated in col. 19, lines 28—67 and col. 20, lines 1-2,

participants collaborative multimedia workstations have, fax/mail/telephone/audio/video services with end point addresses).

As to Claim 18, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 17, wherein the list of addresses corresponds to multiple client devices (as stated in col. 19, lines 28—67 and col. 20, lines 1-2, fax/mail/telephone/audio/video services are provided by the corresponding devices).

As to Claim 19, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 17, wherein the multimedia collaboration system is further configured to automatically attempt to connect via each of addresses in the list of addresses until it achieves a successful connection (as stated in col. 19, lines 28-67 and col. 20, lines 1-2, Collaborative Initiator Module initiates connections to collaborative services when participant joins the session).

As to Claim 20, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 19, wherein the endpoint address information includes multiple phone numbers for the associated participant (as stated in col. 16, lines 30-38, col. 19, lines 28-67 and col. 20, lines 1-2 associated participant have telephone, fax and number associated with them).

As to Claim 21, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 20, wherein the multimedia collaboration system is further configured to automatically dial each of the multiple phone numbers until it achieves a successful audio connection (as stated in col. 19, lines 28-67 and col. 20, lines 1-

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2, Collaborative Initiator Module initiates connections to collaborative services when participant joins the session).

As to Claim 22, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 1, wherein it enables each participant to edit the participant's associated endpoint address information using the participant's associated client device (as stated in col. 21, lines 19-30, lines 65-67 and col. 22, lines 1-25, lines 62-66, participants can select services they want and edit and update corresponding endpoint address associated with the service devices).

As to Claim 24, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 1, wherein the multimedia collaboration system is further configured to distribute the endpoint address information obtained to each participant (as stated in col. 19, lines 28-46 and col. 21, lines 6-30, when participants select the services required, they register with service server which in turn replicates and distribute to other service servers).

As to Claim 25, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 24, wherein the endpoint address information distributed by the multimedia collaboration system can be stored on each of the participant's associated client device (as stated in col. 19, lines 59-67, col. 20, lines 1-2 and col. 21 lines 6-30, participants endpoint address distributed by service server enables participant to add other participants shown on there collaborative multimedia workstation as icons).

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As to Claim 26, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 1, wherein endpoint address information is automatically collected from each client device when an associated participant joins the multimedia collaboration session using the client device (as stated in col. 21 lines 6-30, lines 65-67, and col. 22, lines 1-25, when participants joins a collaborative session using client devices, they register with service server which automatically collects the end point address of the client device).

As to Claim 27, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 2, wherein the new media component is a video stream component (as stated in col. 29, lines 9-31, multimedia conference is recorded and played as video stream).

As to Claim 28, Ludwig teaches multimedia collaboration system of claim 27, wherein the endpoint address information obtained by the multimedia collaboration system can be distributed to client device associated with participants that wish to share video streams, and wherein the client devices can use the endpoint address information distributed to the client device to exchange the video streams between the client device (as stated in col. 19, lines 28-46 and col. 21 lines 6-30, participants can select the services they want and share with other participants video streams which are stored on servers with endpoint address associated for replay).

As to Claim 29, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 28, wherein the client devices sharing the video streams share the video streams in

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a peer-to-manner using the distributed endpoint address information (as stated in col. 9, lines 4-14, col. 21 lines 65-67, and col. 22, lines 1-26, 55-61, Audio/Video switching is peer-to-peer basis between servers).

As to Claim 30, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 2, wherein each of the plurality of central servers is configured to handle a different media component (as stated in col. 21, lines 6-18 and col. 30 lines 28-30, multiple servers are used for collaborative services, service server, audio/video storage servers and data server).

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record but not relied upon:

US Patent 5854893A to Ludwig et.al. addresses interoperability of real-time and asynchronous systems for teleconferencing.

US Publication 20020188744A1 relates to Direct connect multimedia service in a multimedia-capable network between subscriber and end destination, authentication and service options selections.


US Publication 20020196741A1 teaches for intelligent multimedia event registration and services control with multi-services user profile integration.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Muktesh G. Gupta whose telephone number is 571-270-5011. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m., EST.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Taghi T. Arani can be reached on 571-272-3787. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


TAGHI ARANI
PRIMARY EXAMINER
9/30/07

Muktesh Gupta